

Marasmius porphyrocephalus F.E. Guard, T. Lebel & Dearnaley 2025



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Cap: 3–14(–20) mm diam., candy pink to vinaceous purple with blood red to livid vinaceous (77) central disc and radiating sulci, broadly parabolic becoming applanate.

Stipe: (15–)30–45 × 0.2–0.5 mm, dark base, purplish-chestnut (21) trunk and rose pink (39) apex, smooth, hairlike, with tiny basal disc of off-white mycelium.

Lamellae: distant, 12–16, free to adnexed, with occasional lamellulae and bifurcations, pale rose pale vinaceous, margins may be coloured as the cap.

Flesh: thin, pink.

Spores: Smooth, narrowly clavate, thin-walled, inamyloid, 16.5–19.5(–23) × 4–4.5 µm.

Basidia: 4-spored.

Pleurocystidia: moderately common, 22–54 × 5–13 µm, cylindrical, capitate, thin-walled.

Cheilocystidia: two types: a) *Siccus*-type cells, cylindrical to sub-globose, main body 10–22 × 7.5–10 µm, with multiple thick-walled apical setules, 2–5 × 1–1.5 µm; and b) rare, smooth, irregular cells, 12–38 × 10–17 µm.

Pileipellis: palisade of *Siccus*-type cells similar to cheilocystidia type a.

Substrate: leaf litter in natural and disturbed areas.

Habitat: parks and gardens, road verges, rarely on vertical bark from FNQ to central NSW.

Collections examined: QLD, Cairns Botanical Gardens, 11 Feb. 2021, *F.E. Guard & T. Lebel*, F2021046, (BRI AQ1034084); Maleny, Dilkusha NR, 1 May 2019, *F.E. Guard*, F2019036 (BRI AQ1007378); SEQ, Eudlo, 14 Feb. 2024, *J. Rodwell*, JR001 (BRI AQ1052603); Murrumba Downs, 13 Jan. 2024, *W.G. Boatwright*, QMS2024-01-13-009 (BRI AQ1045965); and other collections.

Notes: *Marasmius porphyrocephalus* with its bright pink to purple cap, is easily recognised in the field and it is the most common of the ‘haematocephalus’ clade in Australia. DNA suggests it may also be widespread across southern Asia and Madagascar. It is sister to the ‘true’ *M. haematocephalus* from Brazil.